

HO-512, O'er the Spring  
5671 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge  
Surveyed by: Kristin Hill  
March 2003

## **ADDENDUM**

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### Section 3. Owner of Property

Carol McClain  
5761 Railroad Avenue  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

### Section 4. Location of Legal Description

Howard County Courthouse  
Ellicott City  
Liber 1514, Folio 376  
Tax map 38, Parcel 601

### Section 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

X Other Contributing building in the Elkridge Landing Historic Survey District, HO-784

### Section 7. Description

Condition: Excellent  
Date: ca. 1880

This property was recorded in the 1970's as "O'er the Spring." It faces west on the east side of Railroad Avenue flanked by 5655 and 5681 Railroad Avenue. The form of the building is unchanged since it was recorded in the 1970's; it remains a two story, three bay, single pile frame dwelling with an unusual parapeted roof and projecting entry bay. Stylistically, the house is most closely related to the Italianate family. The original form notes two rear additions; both of these additions remain and no additional alterations have been made. The full width, single story front porch retains its unique shingle and dentil detailing at the cornice line, and the striking four panel front door remains. The house is now clad in vinyl German-style siding, but the 2/2 windows on the original section remain. The walls on the original section of the house appear to bow out slightly at the top and it is possible that beneath the vinyl siding (and perhaps the previous shingle covering) original cornice decoration, similar to that on the porch, remains. The windows in the rear additions are now vinyl replacements. A decorative iron picket style fence remains along the street and the south property line. This fence is probably original, or at least a very early addition, to the house and is an important characteristic of the property. The house is in very good condition and the vinyl German siding is an improvement over the asphalt or asbestos shingles which covered the building in the 1970's. The original form indicates that the house was built circa 1865,

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5671 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge  
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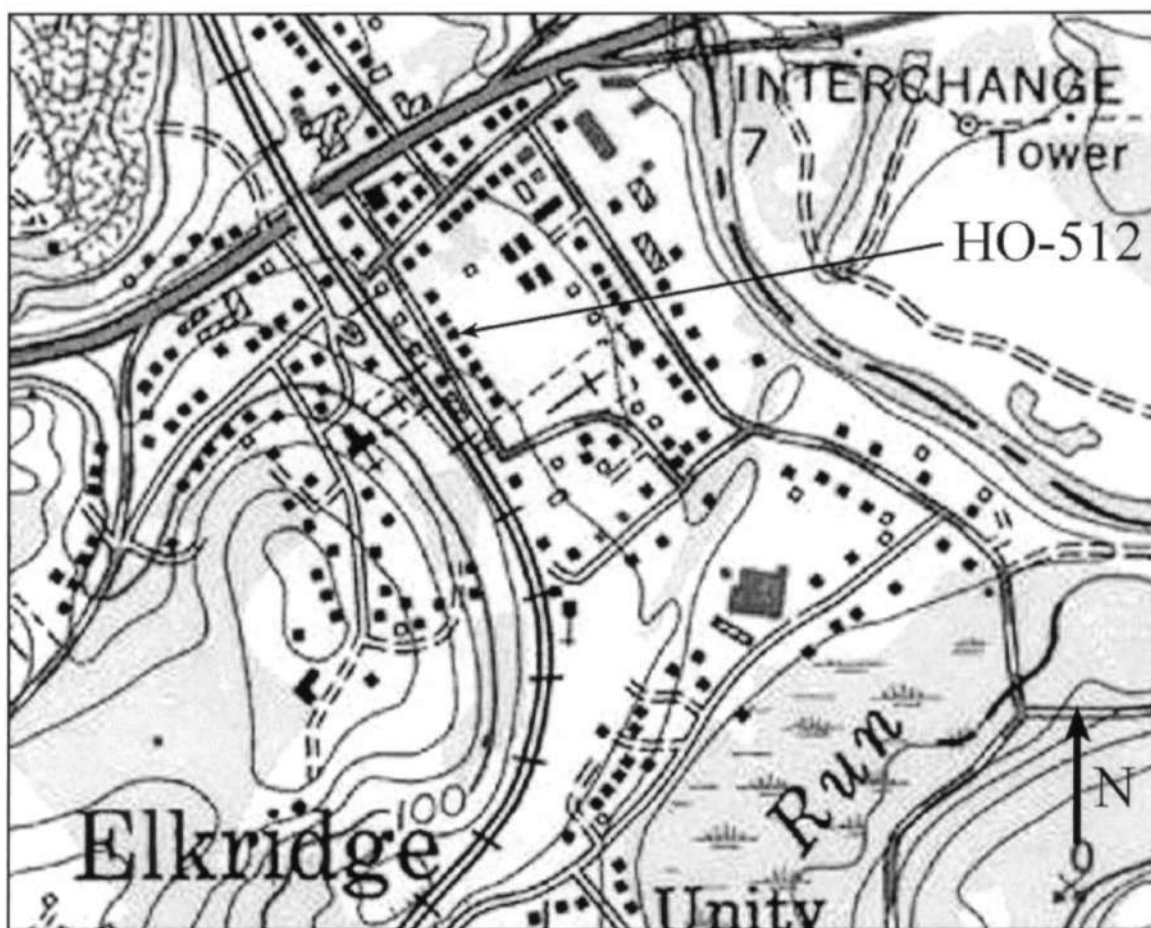
### **ADDENDUM**

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but, unless it is the smudge on the lot owned by Daniel Stimpner, it does not show up on the 1878 Hopkins map, and it is possible that it wasn't built until the early 1880's.

#### Section 11. Form Prepared by

Kristin H. Hill, Architectural Historian  
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-313-4335  
May 2003



HO-512, O'er the Spring  
Elkridge, Howard County, MD  
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay  
7.5 Minute Series, 1957 (PR 1966 and 1974)



H0-512, O'er the Spring  
5671 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge Landing Historic District

Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 3/03

27 21+00 NNNNN 688

Negative at MDSHPO

NW elevation

1 of 3



Ho 512, O'er the Spring  
5671 Railroad Ave., Elkridge Landing Historic District  
Howard County, MD  
Knistm Hill, S103  
Negative at MDSHPO  
West elevation

28 21+00 NNNNN 688

2 of 3





H0-512, Over the Spring  
5671 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge Landing Historic District  
Howard County, MD  
Kistler Hill, 3/03  
Negative at MDSHPO  
East elevation

38 21-01 NNNNN 688

3 of 3

HO-512  
O'er The Spring  
Private  
Elkridge

circa 1865

O'er The Spring faces west on the east side of Railroad Avenue some five houses north of its intersection with Paradise Avenue.

It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, square frame building (covered with asbestos shingles) resting on a stone foundation. It features a projecting central bay which rises to the top of a four foot high parapet running along the north, south and west elevations, which extends outward from its base, creating a flat arched effect. It is crowned by a simple wooden cornice. The central projecting bay features a similar parapet, appearing tower-like as it rises above the roofline.

Fenestration for the house is proportionally scaled, vertically aligned, and double-hung, holding two-over-two lights.

The central entrance, placed in the projecting bay, is a rectangular, cross paneled door with pediments surmounting its top panels, leading into a small vestibule and entrance to the house.

The interior features random width pine floors, cross paneled interior doors, a well decorated hall, featuring crown molding, decorated with a row of dentils, a small staircase with carved spindles and original knewel post, and fine marble mantle piece decorated with two full doric columns.

The home in the 1860's of Bernard Boyle, prominent land owner in the area, it was later occupied by Joseph Mewshaw and remains today the most picturesque dwelling along Railroad Avenue.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-512  
Dist. 1

MA6I # 1405125504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

O'er The Spring

AND/OR COMMON

The Harrison House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5671 Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harrison

Telephone #: 796-8511

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5671 Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tax Map #38, p. 601

Hall of Records

Liber #: 617

Folio #: 491

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

O'er The Spring faces west on the east side of Railroad Avenue, the fifth house north of its intersection with Paradise Avenue.

It is a three-bay wide, one room deep, two story high, frame (covered with asbestos shingles) house, resting on a stone foundation with north and south square brick chimneys and a four foot tall parapet extending outward from its base, giving a flat arched effect on the north, south and west elevations. The parapet is decorated with a plain white cornice, and on its west elevation features a central projecting entrance bay which rises to the second floor and on to the top of the parapet, itself terminating in a similar parapet, above that of the house, giving a turret like, English tower effect to this facade.

This small, tower like, projecting bay serves on the first floor as an entrance vestibule and on the second floor as a small room off the master bedroom above the dining room. (See figure 1)

Along this entire elevation runs a one story high, flat roofed, open porch whose roofline is decorated with decorative shingles and a row of dentils, held by four posts decorated with similar shingles. It covers the central, rectangular, cross paneled entrance door with semi-pedimented top panels, surmounted by a five light transom. The second floor window of the tower is covered by a jerkin headed hood, held by two curvilinear brackets.

Fenestration for the house is proportionally scaled, vertically aligned, rectangular and double-hung, holding two-over-two lights.

Along the south half of the east elevation extends a two story high, shed roofed, frame kitchen extension, with second floor bedroom, featuring rectangular, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights. Along the north half of this elevation runs a one story high, shed roofed, enclosure which at one time was an open porch, but now holds a small office and bath. Extending from the middle of the east wall's foundation is a square well house, holding the original well which served not only this house, but those along Railroad Avenue in the early days.

The interior plan of the house is noteworthy, totally divided in half originally, with two interior cross paneled doors leading to each half of the house from the vestibule. The south side door remains, while the north side door has been blocked in and the dividing interior wall opened up between the dining room and living room. (Please see Figure 1) The remaining interior door is flanked by fluted pilasters, surmounted by a fluted lintel with rosettes at each corner. All the interior doors are all similarly decorated.

The division of the house in half is further divided on the north side to provide a hall in the northeast corner, which features a beautifully decorated staircase with carved spindles and knewel post. The ceiling of the hall is decorated by a central wooden medallion and crown molding decorated with a row of dentils. (Please see figure 1)

Floors throughout the house are of random width pine boards. In addition, the dining and living rooms feature nine inch baseboards of fine execution. The upstairs bedrooms feature eight inch baseboards, random width pine floors and tall windows which let in light and air.

The interior woodwork and detail of the hall make this an outstanding house. The marble fireplace in the dining room also adds to this building's significance. It features a very simple entablature supported by two full doric columns.

The building is in fine condition.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HO-512  
Dist. 1

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      circa 1865      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

O'er The Spring is significant architecturally as a well executed frame two story high, dwelling unit of the nineteenth century with some unique stylistic detail in its projecting central bay and unusual parapet and building profile as well as historically significant to Elkridge and Howard County as the home of Bernard Boyle, prominent land owner of Elkridge, who later constructed the Boyle House, HO-385, a fine four bay wide, three story high, brick dwelling unit on the southeast corner of Furnace Avenue and Main Street, Elkridge.

Architecturally, the building, though modest in scale, is noteworthy for the fine interior work and floor plan as well as its stylistic detail. The four foot high parapet which runs along the north, south and west elevations, extending upward to form a flat arched effect, is crowned by a simple wooden cornice. In addition a central projecting bay rises to the top of the parapet and then, it too, extends outward to form a tower-like effect to the building.

It is not only this exterior stylistic detail, which results in a noteworthy building architecturally, but it is also the well executed detail of the building's interior and its interesting floor plan.

Initially, the small vestibule, created by the projecting bay featured two interior cross paneled entrances into rooms totally separated from one another by an interior wall. This has been changed and only the door on the south side remains, while the interior wall has been opened up to allow an easy flow of space and light between the living and dining rooms. The south room or dining room features two south windows and an ornate marble fireplace whose mantle shelf is supported by two full doric columns.

It is the small hall in the northeast corner of the living room section, however, which is most noteworthy, featuring a staircase with unusually carved knewel post, fine bannister and carved spindles. The hall itself features an exceptionally fine crown molding, decorated with a row of dentils and carved wooden medallion in the center of the ceiling. A small staircase window, with two-over-two lights, enlarges the sense of space in this finely executed hall.

Historically, the house is believed to have been the residence of Bernard Boyle, in the 1860's, who later built the three story high brick house, HO-385 on the southeast corner of Furnace Road and Main Street, Elkridge and moved his residence to that

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

more imposing house.

Bernard Boyle left the house and lot, which went all the way to Furnace Road to his sister and her husband, Mary and Bernard Lee of Kansas, in his will of 1871. The will refers to "the house and lot on which I formerly resided ... on which Joseph Mewshaw now resides, together with the lot South of the road leading from the Turnpike to the Furnace". (Wills 2-210)

Mary and Bernard Lee sold the property to Annie and William Boyle on May 7, 1875, together with the buildings. (36-262) On the same day, William Boyle acquired the lot, he sold the southern half of his property to Daniel Stumpner "together with the buildings and improvements thereupon erected, made or being". (36-265)

On August 9, 1887, Daniel and Anna Stumpner sold the property to Jared Peddicord for \$200. (52-306)

Later, owned by Forest and Hattie Bramble, it was acquired on December 6, 1919 by Charles W. Smith (108-563), who built the little one and a half story high cottage north of O'er The Spring for his son, Charles J. Smith. In 1972, O'er The Spring was acquired by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harrison.

Architecturally noteworthy and of historic significance to Elkridge and Howard County, O'er The Spring should be placed, along with the Railroad Avenue Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Critical Areas Program.

O'er The Spring derives its name from a spring located close to the east wall of the house and covered by a small frame appendage. It is related by local residents that it furnished water to the other old houses along Railroad Avenue.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hopkin's Atlas of 1878. Interview with Mrs. Michael Harrison, owner, January 31, 1979 at O'er The Spring. Howard County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .218 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 617 Folio 491

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

9-10 inch molded baseboards.

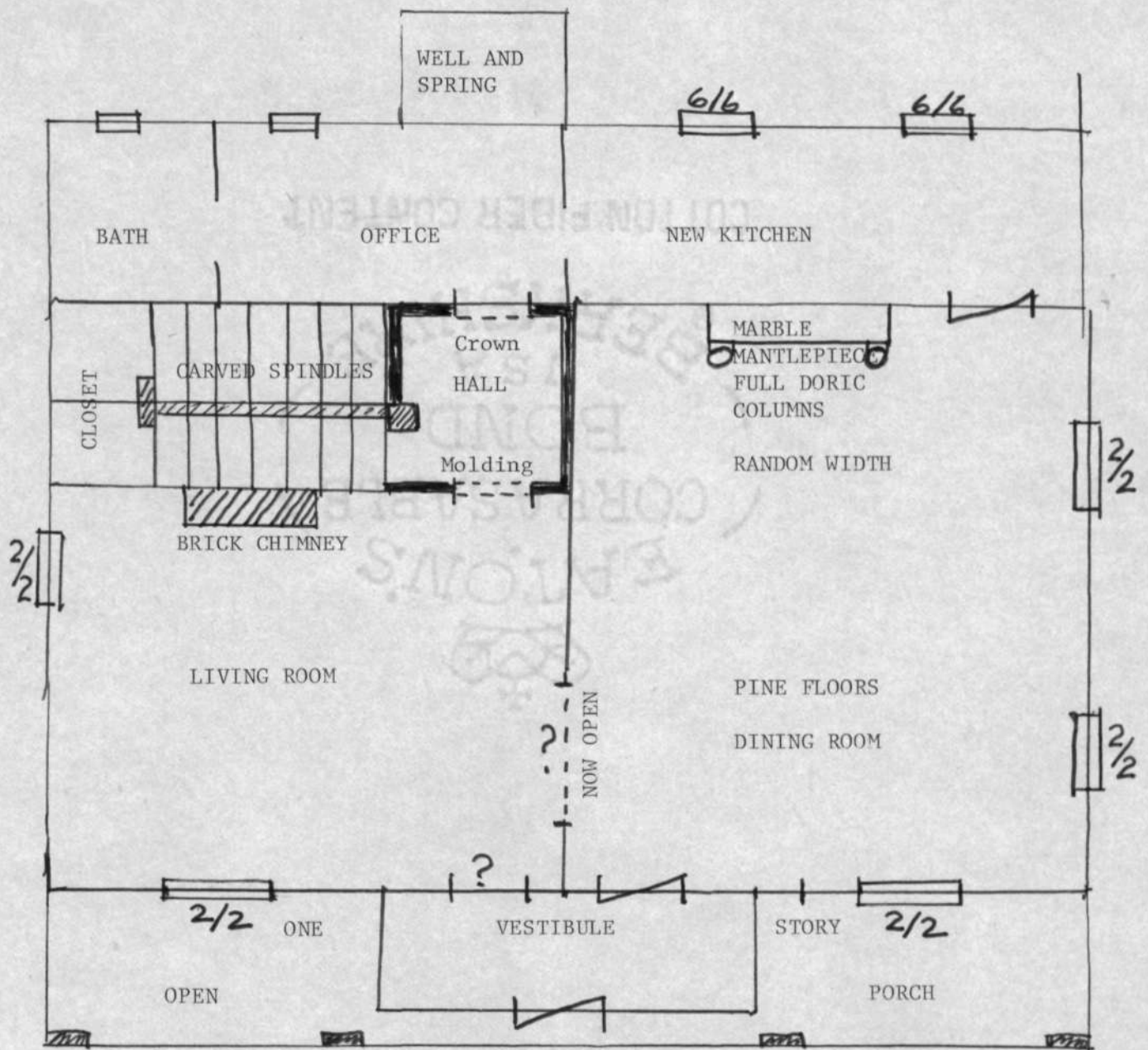
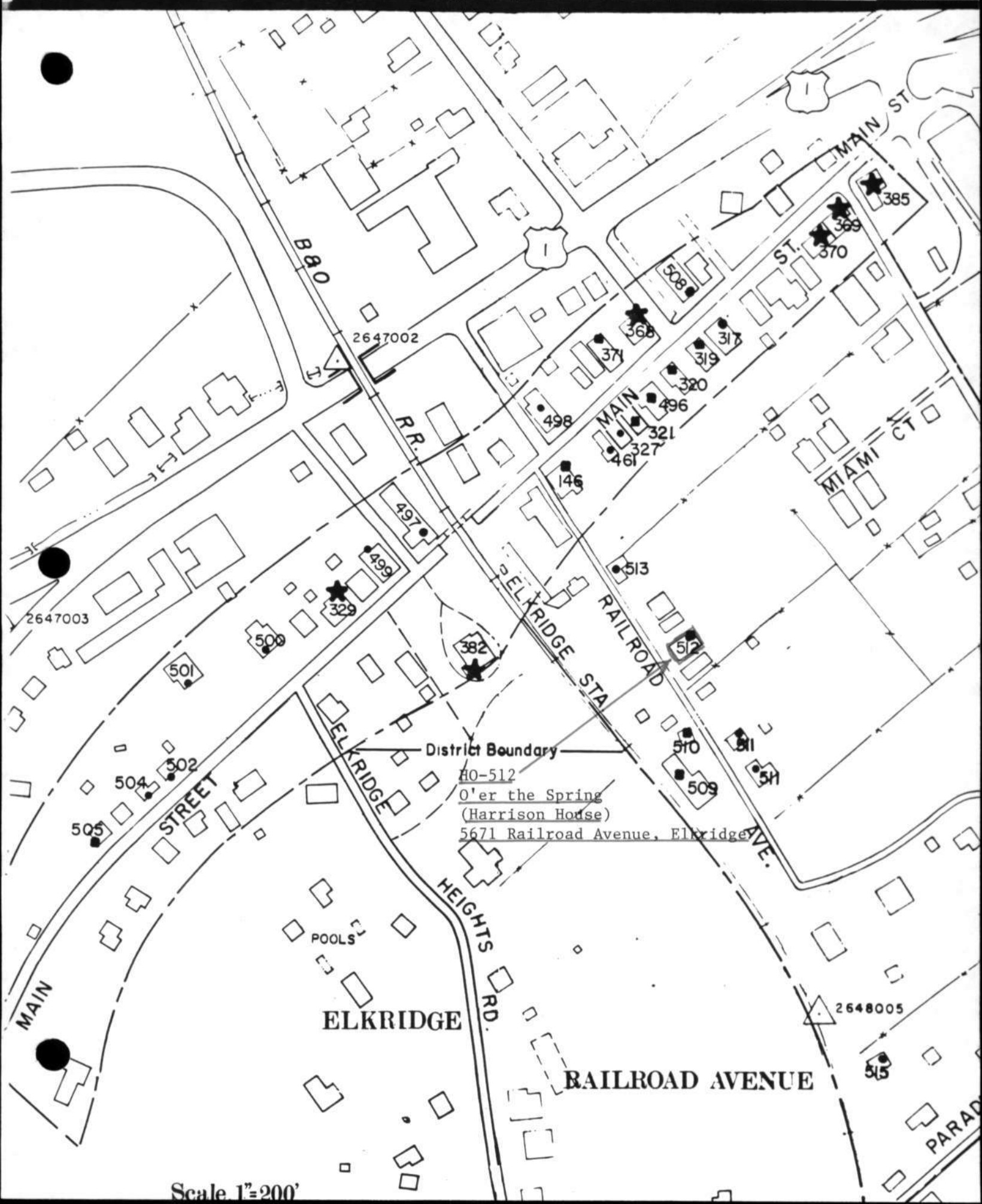
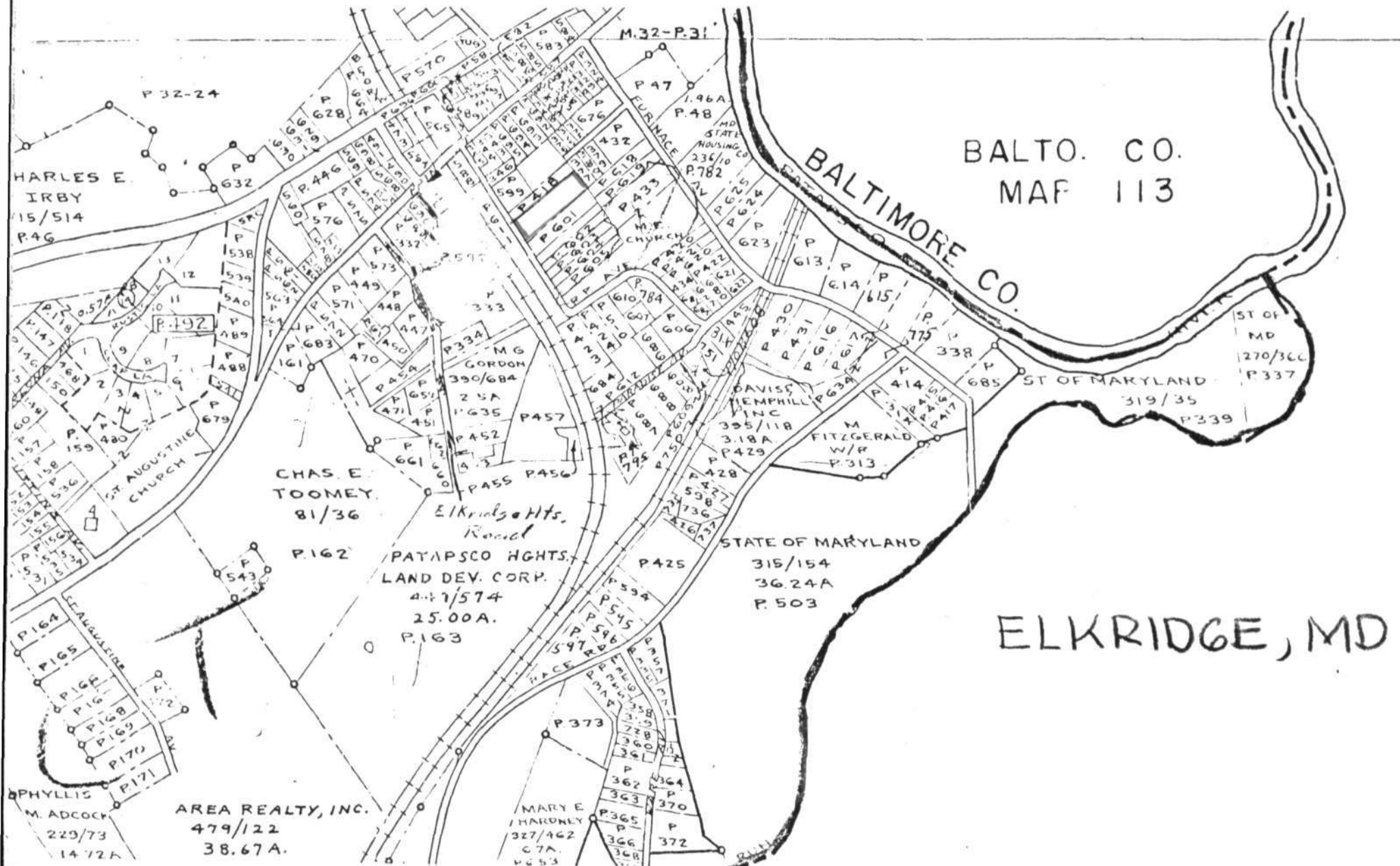


Figure 1  
HO-512  
O'er The Spring  
1st Floor Plan  
Cleora Thompson, A.I.C.P.



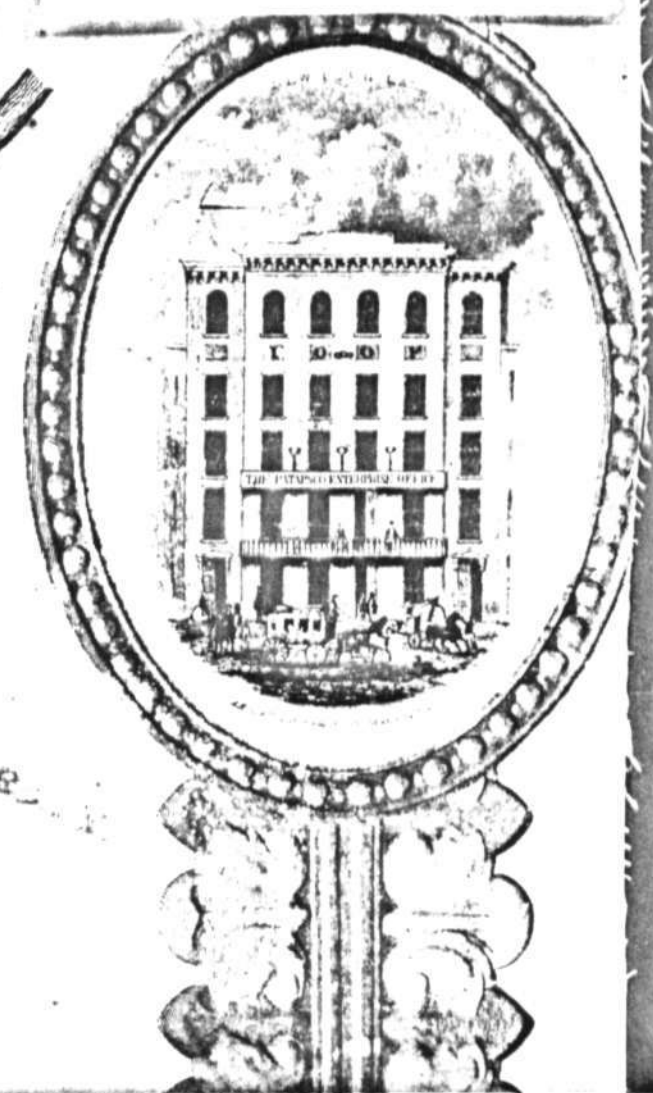


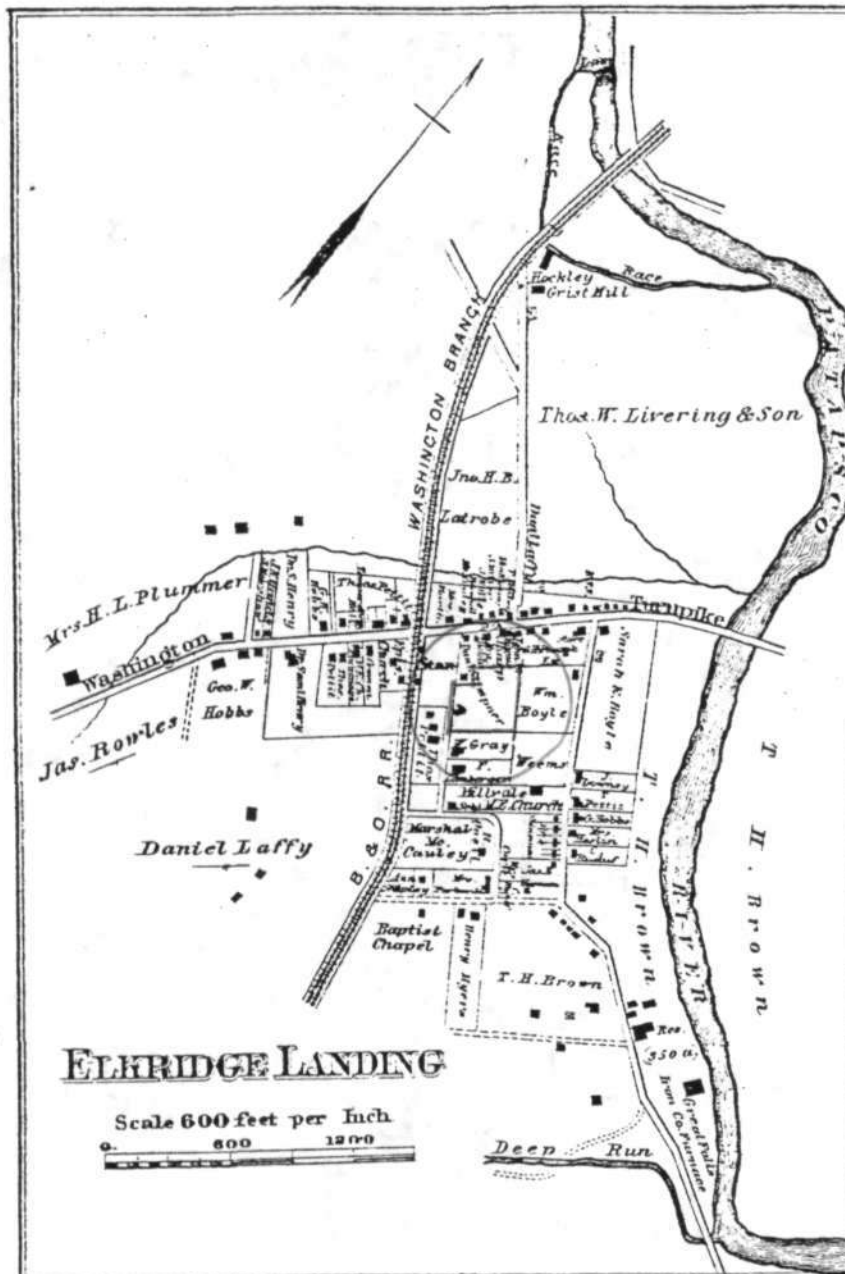
Attachment 1  
HO-512  
O'er The Spring  
Tax Map 38





Attachment 3  
HO-512  
O'er The Spring  
Martennet Map of 1860





Elkridge Landing Business Notices.	
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.	
ROBERT A. DOBBINS.	
GEORGE W. DOBBINS,	
42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.	
THOMAS M. DOBBINS,	
42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.	
BLACKSMITHS AND WHEEL WRIGHTS.	
JOHN BRYAN.	
JOHN B. HELM.	
CARPENTER.	
JAMES ROWLES.	
ENGINEER.	
JOHN N. HAND.	
GENERAL MERCHANTS.	
DANIEL LAFFY.	
MARSHALL McCAULEY.	
JOSEPH H. TALBOT,	
GEORGE W. POCOCK,	
POST MASTER.	
JAMES KARP.	
TINSMITH.	
GEORGE LANOR,	
Tin and Sheet Iron Worker, Roofing and Spouting, etc.	



# **FIRST DISTRICT** **HOWARD COUNTY**

Scale 3 Inches per Mile

0 1/2 1 3/4 2 1/2 3 1/2 4 1/2 5 1/2 6 1/2 7 1/2 8 1/2 9 1/2 10 1/2 11 1/2 12 1/2 13 1/2 14 1/2 15 1/2 16 1/2 17 1/2 18 1/2 19 1/2 20 1/2 21 1/2 22 1/2 23 1/2 24 1/2 25 1/2 26 1/2 27 1/2 28 1/2 29 1/2 30 1/2 31 1/2 32 1/2 33 1/2 34 1/2 35 1/2 36 1/2 37 1/2 38 1/2 39 1/2 40 1/2 41 1/2 42 1/2 43 1/2 44 1/2 45 1/2 46 1/2 47 1/2 48 1/2 49 1/2 50 1/2 51 1/2 52 1/2 53 1/2 54 1/2 55 1/2 56 1/2 57 1/2 58 1/2 59 1/2 60 1/2 61 1/2 62 1/2 63 1/2 64 1/2 65 1/2 66 1/2 67 1/2 68 1/2 69 1/2 70 1/2 71 1/2 72 1/2 73 1/2 74 1/2 75 1/2 76 1/2 77 1/2 78 1/2 79 1/2 80 1/2 81 1/2 82 1/2 83 1/2 84 1/2 85 1/2 86 1/2 87 1/2 88 1/2 89 1/2 90 1/2 91 1/2 92 1/2 93 1/2 94 1/2 95 1/2 96 1/2 97 1/2 98 1/2 99 1/2 100 1/2

EXPLANATIONS	
Dist. & Co. Lines	----
County Roads	----
Private	----
Townships	----
Rail Roads	----
Streams	----
The figures along the Route shows the distance in Rods. from junction to junction thereof.	



Attachment 4  
HO-512  
O'er The Spring  
Hopkins Atlas of 1878

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1873 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

A N N E A



Relay, Maryland Quadrangle

4345000m N  
57°41'30"

5/11/21

37° 14' 00"

39°13'30"

39°13'00"

39°12'30"

22.50



Ho - 512  
O'er The Spring  
SW  
Cleora Thompson  
February - 1979